

ART. VII.—*On Some New Species of Victorian Mollusca,*
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(With Plate XV.).

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The present paper includes descriptions and figures of the following species :—

Zenatia victoriae, sp. nov.

Modiola victoriae, sp. nov.

Also observations on our commonest species of *Chione*, together with figures of the same, namely :—

Chione strigosa, Lamarek.

Chione scalarina, Lamarek.

Chione peronii, Lamarek.

We have to thank Messrs. D. W. Paterson, senior and junior, for the care bestowed on the photographs of these shells, and on their reproduction.

***Zenatia victoriae*, sp. nov.** (Pl. XV., Fig. 3).

Description.—Shell elongate-oval, thin and compressed, with a full and well-rounded anterior end, and slightly attenuate both ventrally and dorsally towards the posterior end. Shell greyish-white and shining, where not covered by a light greyish-brown fine longitudinally striate epidermis, which is very thin and glossy.

Umbos small and well-defined and situated at a distance of one-third of the length of the shell from the anterior margin. Ventral margin nearly straight, only slightly sinuated.

The surface of the valves is very finely concentrically striated, the regularity of the striae being interfered with by the lines of growth, the concentric sculpture is also delicately radially striate, and this is distinctly visible under a lens.

Interior white, cardinal teeth, two and one rudimentary posterior lateral in each valve; the lineal groove of the cartilage plate makes an angle of 20 to 30 deg. with the posterior hinge line; the internal thickening below the umbo or transverse ossicle

forms at first a strong convex ridge, which gradually flattens and spreads out to a distance from the umbo of two-thirds of the height of the shell, and inclines slightly forward towards the anterior.

Dimensions.—Antero-posterior diameter, 73 mm.; umbo-ventral diameter, 31 mm.; anterior margin, from umbo-ventral diameter, 24 mm.; thickness through both valves, about 10 mm.

Locality.—Port Albert (Mr. T. Worcester).

Observations.—This species might at first sight be taken for *Zenatia acinaces*, Quoy and Gaimard, but it is a good species, and shows many points of difference. The most striking difference is the position of the umbo, which in our new species is at one-third of the length of the shell from the anterior margin, while in *Z. acinaces* its position is about one-fifth the length of the shell; this gives a much larger and more regularly rounded anterior to our shell, and consequently a change in the relative position of the anterior muscular impressions, the cartilage plate, and the transverse ossicle. *Z. acinaces* also has a straighter dorsal margin, and a more marked ventral sinus, and greater proportional height.

Type in Mr. Gatliff's collection.

***Modiola victoriae*, sp. nov. (Pl. XV., Figs. 1, 2).**

Description.—Shell elongate-oblong, tumid, with broad umbonal region, a broad and well-marked anterior, and a posterior rather remarkable for its uniformity of height; ventral margin but slightly sinuated, but the shell in this region above the margin is distinctly constricted. Umbos tumid, only slightly separated, and strongly incurved towards the anterior; lunule ill-defined, scarcely excavated; anterior margin regularly convex from the umbos to the ventral margin, post-dorsal margin short and convexly rounded to the posterior margin. The absence of any angulation in the outline is a distinct characteristic.

The colour is a rich dark brown, with the umbo-ventral convex keel of a lighter shade. The surface is marked by irregular lines of growth and fine parallel striae, with faint radial striae on the anterior region, tending to become obsolete posteriorly.

Dimensions.—Antero-posterior diameter, 40 mm.; umbo-ventral diameter, 18 mm.; greatest height at the middle diameter, 19 mm.; thickness through both valves, 18 mm.

Locality.—Dredged alive from about 6 fathoms off Rhyll, Phillip Island, Western Port.

Observations.—This form may be readily distinguished from our other species of this genus by its regular tumidity, and its remarkable uniform height.

Type in Mr. Gatliff's collection.

OBSERVATIONS ON OUR COMMONEST SPECIES OF CHIONE.

Representatives of the genus *Chione* are particularly common on many parts of the shores of Port Phillip, but there are three well-marked forms which require special treatment owing to the confusion existing as to their correct naming.

These species are the following :—

Chione strigosa, Lamarek.
Chione scalarina, Lamarek.
Chione peronii, Lamarek.

The most abundant form, is commonly referred to as *C. strigosa*, Lamarek, and this may be identified by its enlongate-ovate form, anastomosing concentric ridges, which are distinctly crossed by continuous radiating striae.

The next most frequently met with is usually known as *C. scalarina*, Lamarek, and this differs from *C. strigosa* by its more attenuate posterior, by its regular concentric ridges developing into lamellae anteriorly and posteriorly, and the absence of the radiating striae.

The third form to which we consider Lamarek's name *C. peronii* properly belongs, may be identified by its more inflated form and flattened concentric ridges.

All these forms vary in colour both externally and internally, each form being sometimes colourless externally, in fact so great is the variation on different points, that but for the above apparently constant characters they might nearly be regarded as extreme variations of one species.

We give in the succeeding part of our Catalogue of the Marine Shells of Victoria, Part VII., a limited number of references to these species, which we consider in each case refers to the same

